

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A capping product for capping and treating a metal-contaminated sediment comprising a plurality of manufactured composite particles, each composite particle comprising a relatively dense core and a sealant layer at least partially encapsulating the core, the sealant layer being capable of absorbing water and swelling to form a layer on the sediment, the sealant layer containing sulfur in the form of elemental sulfur or a sulfide and at least one component selected from the group consisting of clays, clay-sized materials, bulking agents, sand, sand-sized materials, and binding agents.

2. (Original) A capping product according to claim 1 wherein the sealant layer contains bentonite.

3 - 17. (Canceled)

18. (New) A capping product for capping and treating a metal-contaminated sediment comprising a plurality of manufactured composite particles, each composite particle comprising a relatively dense core and a sealant layer at least partially encapsulating the core, the sealant layer being capable of absorbing water and swelling to form a layer on the sediment, the sealant layer containing sulfur in a form that is effective to sequester metals and at least one component selected from the group consisting of clays, clay-sized materials, bulking agents, sand, sand-sized materials, and binding agents.

19. (New) A capping product according to claim 18 wherein the sulfur is in a form that is effective to sequester metals under water.

20. (New) A capping product for capping and treating a metal-contaminated sediment comprising a plurality of manufactured composite particles, each composite particle comprising a relatively dense core and a sealant layer at least partially encapsulating the core, the sealant layer being capable of absorbing water and swelling to form a layer on the sediment, the sealant layer comprising clay, gypsum and sulfur.